

News from the City of Greenville

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For immediate release

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CITY CONCERN ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY PROMPTS NEWS CONFERENCE

The city of Greenville held a news conference on Friday, February 9, 2001 to inform the public about the negative repercussions that may result from the current construction plans of the new post office between Aberdeen and Conestee.

The City has been involved in ongoing discussions with the developer, U.S. Postal Service personnel, and neighborhood representatives for many months. These discussions have raised strong concerns about the current construction plan for the post office and its effect on the public safety and integrity of the neighborhood.

Throughout these discussions, the city has worked to achieve an outcome that will satisfy all parties involved: a neighborhood post office that provides a full range of services for its patrons while maintaining the integrity and public safety of the neighborhood it serves.

Neighborhood Association President, Kim McFall, notes that the dialogue regarding the new post office has been taking place for more than three years. During that time, a construction plan was presented to the neighborhood for approval. However, this plan was never utilized and the project seemed to be on hold. She stated that when construction actually began, a new plan was being implemented without community input.

According to Greenville City Manager Randy Oliver, public safety is the City's number one concern, especially in the area of vehicular traffic on residential streets. Recent actions by the developer and postal service management have raised concerns regarding future vehicular traffic flow.

In December, a site plan was submitted that allowed for an easement of the property between the post office and the apartment complex on Aberdeen. This easement would allow for the use of Conestee Avenue as the ingress and egress to the post office parking area. According to the city's traffic engineers, this pattern would take advantage of the traffic signal at Aberdeen and Augusta Street and minimize traffic flow into the residential streets in the area.

However, current construction plans indicate that there would be no easement which would force exiting traffic to use Conestee, turning the nearby residential neighborhood streets into major thoroughfares used by post office patrons and mail carriers.

According to the Postal Service's attorneys in Atlanta, the US Postal Service "is not subject to control by State, County, or municipal governments. This applies to all aspects of Postal Service

construction activities, regardless of whether these activities take place on land that the U.S. Postal Service leases or owns”.

Interestingly, this situation, of the U.S. Post Office acting without input from the community, is not unique to Greenville. In fact the current issue of *Governing Magazine* features an article on communities across the county encountering a variety of difficulties when dealing with post office construction.